

Document No. 9
No Change in Class <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified
Class. Changed to: TS S C
Next Review Date: 12 November 1983
Auth.: HR 70-3
Date: 2/21/80
By: 009256

NSC BRIEFING

BERLIN

- I. Khrushchev's statement on Monday that the USSR will transfer its responsibilities in Berlin to East Germany is the most serious threat against the Allied position in the divided city since the 1948-49 blockade.
 - A. Khrushchev also promised support to East Germany if the West uses force to maintain its access to Berlin.
 - B. As a possible first step in the transfer of power, Grotewohl has suggested a Soviet-GDR agreement on Soviet troop withdrawal from Germany if the West also withdraws.
- II. A major purpose of the proposed transfer (which will occur in December or January according to a top East German Communist) apparently is to increase pressure on the West to deal with the East German regime on access rights and so forth--thus extending de facto recognition.
 - A. The proposal fits the Kremlin line on German unification--which Soviets say must be negotiated by East and West Germans, not by the four powers.
- III. We believe the Kremlin will probably avoid--and try to keep the East Germans from--actions it considers likely to provoke any Western use of force.
 - A. But many and varied types of harassments must be expected, with their extent dependent on Western reactions.